

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-25, 27, 28, and 31-58 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-25, 27, 28, and 31-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenner et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,830,068 (hereinafter "Brenner") in view of Wendkos U.S. Patent No. 6,278,980 (hereinafter "Wendkos"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17, 33, and 46 and claims 2, 13-16, 18, 23-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 42-45, 47, and 55-58 which depend therefrom, to more particularly define applicants' invention. Applicants' independent claims 1, 17, 33, and 46, as amended, are directed to interactive wagering systems, method, and computer-readable medium that enable a user to receive data relating to a single wagering account with any one of a plurality of types of user interface systems. The plurality of types of user interface systems further receive wager information (e.g., wagering information for creating a wager) from the user. The plurality of types of user interface systems of claims 1, 17, 33, and 46 are further defined to include at least an interactive voice response control system and a computer wagering control system.

Brenner discloses interactive wagering systems and processes. Although the practice of the invention claimed in the present application may implicate the teachings of Brenner, Brenner does not show or suggest the specific improvement of allowing a user to use a plurality of types of user interface systems to access data relating to a single wagering account from a database that stores data relating to a plurality of wagering accounts. The Examiner acknowledges this on page 2 of the Office Action where it is stated that "Brenner does not disclose the use of a plurality of types of user interface systems to receive account information."

Wendkos describes an interactive platform for an incentive awards program that program participants can access over a network. One example of an awards programs according to Wendkos is a telephone-based awards program that allows users to place calls to the interactive platform to enter each certificate number that the users find on product packaging, that rewards users based on each unique certificate number entered, and that rewards the users with free long distance telephone time. Wendkos, col. 2:33-49. Another example of an awards program according to Wendkos is an awards program for awarding promotional incentives based on the usage of pay-per-view programs in a CATV system. Wendkos, col. 12:15-28. Wendkos describes using only one type of user interface system for a specific awards program. The description of different types of user interface systems in Wendkos serves only to illustrate how different awards programs can be configured with different types of user interface systems. Therefore, if a user had an account in one awards program, that account can only be accessed with one type of user interface system according to Wendkos.

Moreover, Wendkos teaches away from using different types of user interface systems to access a specific awards program. Each of the awards programs that Wendkos describes is uniquely adapted to one type of user interface system. For example, in the awards programs based on product packaging certificates, the user is identified at the interactive platform by a unique PIN (personal identification number), which contains a telephone number. Wendkos, col. 2:33-49 and col. 6:67-col. 7:4. There is no showing or suggestion in Wendkos of how the PIN, and hence this specific awards program (or any other awards program) could be accessed with more than one type of user interface system. Despite the Examiner's contention that applicants are improperly adding limitations pertaining to a PIN to applicants' claims, applicants respectfully submit that applicants are using the Wendkos PIN scheme as an example

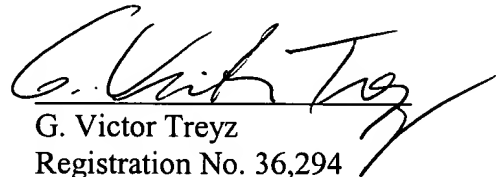
of how Wendkos teaches away from accessing the same information in a specific awards program with multiple types of user interface systems. Office Action, page 4. Therefore, applicants are not suggesting that applicants' claims have any limitations relating to a PIN.

The Examiner further contends that Wendkos discloses an interactive system configured to allow users to access account information using different types of user interfaces. The Examiner has, however, mischaracterized Wendkos. At most, Wendkos describes a scheme for implementing different awards programs with different types of user interface systems. Applicants respectfully submit that applicants' claims, as amended are patentable over Brenner in view of Wendkos because the combination of Brenner and Wendkos does not show or suggest that the user can access a single wagering account with multiple types of interface systems, as required by applicants' claims 1, 17, 33, and 46. Applicants note that the Examiner does not dispute that Wendkos does not show or suggest that the user can access a single account in a specific awards program with multiple types of interfaces. Instead, the Examiner states that "[a]pplicants are not claiming 'allowing a user to access information from a single account with more than one type of user interfaces'." Office Action, page 4. In view of applicants' amendment of claims 1, 17, 33, and 46 to include the requirement that users can receive data relating to a single wagering account with any one of a plurality of types of user interface systems, applicants' invention as defined in claims 1, 17, 33, and 46 is patentable over Brenner in view of Wendkos.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 17, 33, and 46, and claims 2-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33-45, and 47-58 which depend therefrom, are allowable over Brenner in view of Wendkos under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants request that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 17, 33, and 46, and claims 2-9, 11, 12, 15-16, 18-25, 27, 28, 31, 34-45, and 47-58, are in condition for allowance, and that this application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Victor Treyz
Registration No. 36,294
Attorney for Applicants

FISH & NEAVE
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1104
Tel.: (212) 596-9000